

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 11 is amended. The amendments introduce no new matter as they are supported at least by the depictions in Figs. 1 and 2. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Ferguson in the October 6, 2005 personal interview, and the October 14, 2005 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claim 11 is amended to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interviews.

During the October 6 personal interview, Applicants' representative presented the claim amendments and arguments as they were presented in the September 27 Amendment. Examiner Ferguson agreed that claims 1 and 15 defined over U.S. Patent Number 4,142,343 to Trafton. The Examiner suggested, however, further clarifying the language of claim 11 to positively recite that the face and the stiffening ribs press against the same main face of the panel.

Claim 11 is further amended to recite a face for pressing against one side of the panel, said face comprising stiffening ribs, said stiffening ribs being configured in the face for bearing against the side of the panel when the panel is assembled with the fixing element. Applicants' representative reviewed these further amendments to claim 11 with Examiner Ferguson during the October 14 telephone interview. The Examiner agreed that claim 11 was now clearly distinguished from Trafton. The Examiner indicated that an updated search would have to be undertaken.

For at least the above reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over Trafton.

In view of the foregoing in supplement to the arguments presented in the September 27 Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are again earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

WPB:DAT/scg

Date: October 17, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461